

REMARKS

I. Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 10 being the only independent claims. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2005/0048981 (Anupam).

II. Summary of this Reply

To overcome the rejection of independent claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), Applicants have amended claims 1 and 10 to define more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention, in terms which distinguish over the art of record.

III. The Present Invention

The present invention provides a system and method for use on a phone system having a server equipped with a “find me/ follow me” (page 4, line 10) feature. That is, “the telephony server 110 is equipped with the feature whereby a call originally directed to a subscriber’s number is rerouted to an alternative location number” (page 3, lines 25-27). This rerouting results in establishing an inbound call from the calling party to the server and an outbound call from the server to the called party. The invention monitors the status of both these inbound and outbound calls. When it detects that the status of the inbound call is active and the status of the outbound call is dropped, and this condition persists in excess of a predetermined period of time, the invention attempts to directly reestablish the phone connection to the auxiliary number.

The Anupam Prior Art Reference

Anupam relates to a system and method wherein “when a wireless communication system detects that a connection to one of its subscribers has dropped, an application server within the network is dynamically called to intervene in the call and one or more options are presented to the remaining end-user” (Abstract). These options include attempting to reconnect the call or directing the remaining end-user to the other party’s voice mail.

Of significance in Anupam’s invention is that “when an existing call is dropped, the MSC 102 receives a cause code associated with the reason for the dropping. Upon detecting a dropped

call, a Wireless Reconnect Application (WRA) 110 running on an application server 111 is dynamically called, with the cause code associated with the dropped call passed to it as an input” (para. 10). A Wireless Reconnect Media Server (WRMS 112) is then employed to communicate with the remaining end-user with reconnect/ voicemail options. If a reconnect is desired, the WRA 110 re-establishes the call.

In Anupam’s invention, once the call is reestablished “WRA 110 enters the passive mode from which it will be dynamically called to regain control if the call drops again, but **not interacting with that or any other connection otherwise** [emphasis added]” (para. 12, last sentence).

IV. Response to 102 Rejections

Claim 1 recites a method for reconnecting a dropped telephone connection between a calling party and a called party, the telephone connection having been established by a telephone call having been initially placed by the calling party to a primary number of the called party and subsequently rerouted by a telephony server to an auxiliary number assigned to the called party, thereby establishing an inbound call from the calling party to the server and an outbound call from the server to the called party. The method comprises monitoring by the server the status of the inbound call, monitoring by the server the status of the outbound call, and detecting by the server the situation where the status of the inbound call is active and the status of the outbound call is dropped. The method further comprises attempting by the server to reestablish the telephone connection with the called party should said situation exceed a predetermined period of time.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the server itself actively monitors the status of the inbound and outbound calls to determine when the outbound call is dropped. This feature is neither taught nor suggested by Anupam as the server is alerted to a status change of call on the network by the receipt of a cause code. The receipt of this cause code triggers a server to take action to attempt to reconnect the call. An important feature of Anupam is that the server used to reconnect the call, is dynamically called in response to a dropped call – it does not monitor calls in progress. In fact as noted above, Anupam teaches away from such monitoring. “The WRA 110 enters the passive mode from which it will be dynamically called to regain control if the call drops

again, but **not interacting with that or any other connection otherwise** [emphasis added]” (para. 12, last sentence).

Anupam thus fails to teach the feature of claim 1 wherein a server used to reconnect a call in the event it is dropped, is also used to monitor inbound and outbound legs of that call to detect when the outbound call is dropped and the inbound call remains active. For at least this reason, claim 1 is patentable over Anupam.

Turning to independent claim 10, Applicants have amended this claim in a manner similar to amended claim 1 to clearly recite the features of claim 1 discussed above that distinguish over Anupam. Accordingly, claim 10 is patentable over Anupam for the same reasons.

The server monitoring feature of the claimed invention permits other features of the invention that are not possible with the Anupam invention. In particular, claims 3 and 4 (and corresponding claims 12 and 13) recite the feature that the communications between the parties of the phone call are monitored for the presence of closing remarks (e.g. “Goodbye”) to thereby determine that a subsequent disconnect was intended. This feature is clearly not capable of being implemented with Anupam’s invention, as no server monitoring means exists.

The other claims currently standing as rejected in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejected dependent claims are respectfully requested.

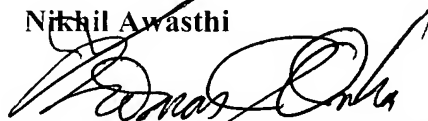
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe claims 1-18 to be patentable and the application to be in condition for allowance, and requests respectfully issuance of a Notice of Allowance. If any issues remain, the undersigned requests a telephone interview with Applicants' Attorney prior to the issuance of an action.

Respectfully submitted,

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